

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, CB, FR

SUBJECT: ORTF PROGRAM ON CAMBODIA

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 830

B. PARIS 01382

C. PARIS 01018

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ON JANUARY 17 DISCUSSED ORTF PROGRAM PER REFTEL B WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF FUNK MAP OTHER SIDE HAS FURNISHED ORTF. HE OFFERED EMBASSY TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES FOR TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION REQUESTED BY GKR MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS. OFFICIAL SAID THAT MINISTER OF INFORMATION CHHANG SONG HAD BEEN TASKED WITH RESPONSE ALONG LINES REFTEL C, AND PROMISED TO APPRISE SONG OF NEW, MORE URGENT DEADLINE AND ATTACHE'S SUGGESTION ON HOW TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM.

2. FOREIGN MINISTR OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT GKR MIGHT ULTIMATELY SEND TO PARIS FROM CAMBODIA, SAMYL MANIPONG MIGHT IN ANY CASE WISH TO USE DATA IN BOOKLET MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PREPARED IN 1974 ENTITLED "L'AGRESSION DES NORD-VIETNAMIENS ET VIETCONG CONTRE LA REPUBLIQUE KHMERE" (1970-1974). THE BOOKLET CONTAINS FOUR MAPS HIGHLIGHTING ILLEGAL NVA/VC PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA, AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC, THE OFFICIAL POINTED OUT, FOR A PROGRAM ON THE PARISACCORDS.
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EMBASSY OFFICER PROMISED TO PASS THE SUGGESTION ALONG

TO PARIS.

3. OFFICIAL, ALTHOUGH AGREEING ON THE NEED TO REBUT THE GRUNK VERSION OF THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION, SEEMED DUBIOUS ABOUT WHETHER THE INFORMATION COULD BE PREPARED IN TIME. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT PORTION OF ORTF PROGRAM ON CAMBODIA ONLY A MINUTE AND A HALF, AND ELABORATE PRESENTATION PROBABLY NOT NECESSARY. HOWEVER, WHATEVER COULD BE GOTTEN TOGETHER, EVEN IF NOT AS MUCH OR EXACTLY AS REQUESTED BY ATTACHE, COULD USEFULLY BE CABLED SO AS TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING AT LEAST TO WORK WITH. MINISTRY OFFICIAL PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD.

4. WE WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN AND INFORMATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON THIS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THT GKR, DESPITE OUR URGING, AND GIVEN THE SHORT FUSE ON THE ORTF REQUEST, WILL DROP THE BALL. THE ATTACHE MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED TO GET MOBILIZED ON HIS OWN.
DEAN

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